

**To:** Kessler, Martin[Kessler.Martin@epa.gov]  
**From:** Whitley, Christopher  
**Sent:** Mon 12/7/2015 10:17:14 PM  
**Subject:** RE: OPA Daily Digest, 12/7/15

No idea. Thanks for filling the gap. I'm filling Dave's gap for most of the rest of this fucking week.

Wait...that sounded far worse than I intended....

**From:** Kessler, Martin  
**Sent:** Monday, December 07, 2015 4:15 PM  
**To:** Whitley, Christopher <Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: OPA Daily Digest, 12/7/15  
**Importance:** High

I'll post on LAN. Did it last Friday for Cecilia. She's out again today.

Do you know who her usual back-up is? It ain't me.

**From:** Whitley, Christopher  
**Sent:** Monday, December 07, 2015 4:04 PM  
**To:** R7 Daily Digest INBOX <[R7\\_Daily\\_Digest\\_INBOX@epa.gov](mailto:R7_Daily_Digest_INBOX@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** OPA Daily Digest, 12/7/15  
**Importance:** High

## **OPA Daily Digest – 12/07/15**

### **Upcoming EPA Region 7 Events by Division**

New additions noted with an asterisk

**RA:**

**12/8-9/15** - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

**12/9/15** – ORD Tools Café, Regional Office, Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188

**12/11/15** – Kansas Farmers Union State Convention, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**12/14/15** - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office.  
Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**12/15/15** – Courtesy Visits, St. Louis Missouri. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506.

**1/13-14/16** – Region 7/Region 8 Agriculture Directors Meeting, Kansas City, Contact: Damon Frizzell,  
7560

**DRA:**

**12/8-9/15** - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

**12/9/15** – ORD Tools Café, Regional Office, Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188

**12/14/15** - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office.  
Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**1/13-14/16** – Region 7/Region 8 Agriculture Directors Meeting, Kansas City, Contact: Damon Frizzell,  
7560

**RA/Immediate Office**

None

**Other Events****AWMD**

**12/8-10/15** – 2015 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop with EPA and states, Dallas, Tex. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

**12/9/15** – Sysco Food Recovery and Sustainability presentation at WasteCap, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Lisa Thresher, 7964

**12/9/15** – Kansas City Environmental Educators Network Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646

**12/10/15** - Mid-America Regional Council's Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

**12/10/15** – Kick-off meeting for the Economy, Energy & Environment (E3) initiative in Iowa, IDNR offices, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669

**12/10/15** – Kansas City Environmental Educators Food Recovery Team Meeting, MARC offices. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646

**12/10-12/15** – U.S. Department of Agriculture Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and Department of the Interior Joint Stakeholders Committee Meeting, Fort Collins, Colo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

**12/11/15** – EPA's Clean Power Plan and Climate Change, Anita B Gorman Discovery Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Toni Gargas, 7193

**12/11/15** – Missouri Emergency Response Commission meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Terri Blunk, 7013

**12/11/15** – MARC Solid Waste District Meeting, Kauffman Foundation Conf. Center, Kansas City, Mo.  
Contact: Jim Callier, 7646

**12/15/15** – Pollution Prevention programmatic/technical assistance visit, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669

**12/16/15** – Executive Order 13650 Federal Inspector training, EPA Regional Office, Lenexa, Kan.  
Contact: George Hess, 7540

#### **CNSL**

None

#### **ECO**

**12/11/15** – EPA's Clean Power Plan and Climate Change, Anita B Gorman Discovery Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094; Althea Moses, 7649

**12/14/15** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**12/15/2015** – Carter Carburetor Public Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

**12/18/2015** –Meeting with NEJAC Partner, Dennis Randolph, Grandview, Mo. Contact: Althea Moses, 7649

**12/18/15** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**1/6/16** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**1/11/16** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**1/14/16** – Missouri Waste Control Coalition, Discovery Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

## **ENST**

**12/8/15** – Attend public meeting on the new Medical Isotope (Mo-99) facility construction, Columbia. Mo. Purpose is to gauge public opinion and ensure NEPA compliance. Contact: Joe Summerlin, 7029.

**12/9/15** – ORD Tools Café, Regional Office. Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188.

## **PLMG**

None

## **RA/OPA**

**12/8/15** – Attend public meeting on the new Medical Isotope (Mo-99) facility construction, Columbia. Mo. Purpose is to gauge public opinion and ensure NEPA compliance. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

**12/11/15** – EPA's Clean Power Plan and Climate Change presentation to Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, Anita B Gorman Discovery Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

## **SUPR**

**12/7-11/15** – On-Scene Coordinator Readiness Work Group and Academy Training Board meetings, Arlington, Va. Contact: Heath Smith, 636-326-4724.

**12/10/15** – Video teleconference with EPA HQ and Federal Emergency Management Agency to discuss ESF-10 briefing to Incident Management Assistance Teams, Regional Emergency Operations Center, Regional Office. Contact: Dave Williams, 7625.

**12/10/15** – Meeting with Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma stakeholders involved with the Tri-State Mining District Surface Water and Sediment Transport modeling to brief initial modeling results and plan future efforts addressing mining impacts on the Spring and Neosho River watersheds, Webb City, Mo. (Route 66 Event Center). Contact: Mark Doolan, 7169.

**12/10/15** – Meeting with Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality regarding 10th St. site, Hastings, Neb. Contact: Scott Marquess, 7131.

**12/16-17/15** – FEMA Regional Incident Steering Committee (RISC) meeting at Region 7 Federal Emergency Management Agency, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Williams, 7625.

**12/14-18/15** — Removal assessment at the Citizens Gas & Electric Former Manufactured Gas Plant (FMGP) site in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Contact: Kevin Larson, 7808.

## **WWPD**

**12/8-9/15** – Nebraska Health and Human Services Public Water System Supervision Quarterly Meeting to discuss work plan activities, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Ken Deason, 7585

**12/8-10/15** – 2015 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop with EPA and states, Dallas, Tex. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

**12/10-12/15** – U.S. Department of Agriculture Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and Department of the Interior Joint Stakeholders Committee Meeting, Fort Collins, Colo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

## **Congressional Inquiries:**

**Rep. Ann Wagner** – 11/9/15 – Letter – Questions about West Lake Landfill site. Due: 11/24/15.  
Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

### **State Government Inquiries:**

None

### **Press Inquiries:**

**KIOS 91.5, Omaha Public Radio** – Cheril Lee – 10/19/15 – Requests interview about the newly award Environmental Justice Small Grant to Together Incorporated of Metropolitan Omaha. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Missouri Municipal League** – Juliet Mee – 12/2/15 - Interview regarding Clean Power Plan for their internal publication. Awaiting callback. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

**St. Louis American** – Rebecca Rivas – 12/3/15 – Questions about minority hiring requirements and the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

### **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

### **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

## Environmental Stories:

**KTRS Radio, St. Louis - Final test results from the Bridgeton Landfill Pump Station - 12/7/15** - The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District has received the results of water samples collected from the sewage overflow that occurred at the Bridgeton Landfill in October. MSD reports that final test results showed that any pollutants released from the sewage spill did not pose a threat to public health.  
<http://www.ktrs.com/final-test-results-from-the-bridgeton-landfill-pump-station/>

**Des Moines Register (guest op/ed) - McCabe: EPA is fueling growth in biofuels industry - 12/6/15** - The truth is that EPA's standards will continue to drive ambitious, achievable growth in biofuel markets, while recognizing the real world development of current advanced biofuel technologies.  
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/2015/12/06/epa-fueling-growth-biofuels-industry/76669554/>

**Hot Air (blog) - The EPA is shamelessly politicking in Iowa - 12/6/15** - Part of the job of the Environmental Protection Agency is clearly to promote their own policies and demonstrate to the American people how they are working to benefit the nation. (That is, when they're not busy wasting massive amounts of money and polluting river systems.) But there's a fine line to be walked between educating the public on the issues and blatant politicking to benefit the party currently controlling the White House. <http://hotair.com/archives/2015/12/06/the-epa-is-shamelessly-politicking-in-iowa/>

**Des Moines Register (editorial) - Editorial: Don't blame God for water woes - 12/5/15** - The debate over Iowa's water quality took a strange turn recently as local and state leaders weighed in on who's really to blame for our polluted waterways and what needs to be done. Sen. Chuck Grassley's comments generated the most discussion, as he pointed the finger of blame at God for providing the torrential rains that contribute to nutrient runoff from farm fields. (The Des Moines Register was unable to reach God for comment.) <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/12/06/editorial-dont-blame-god-water-woes/76729050/>

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Ameren suspends plans for huge solar farm along I-70 - 12/6/15** - An Ameren Missouri solar array that would have stretched for more than half a mile along Interstate 70 in Montgomery County has been put on hold. In a statement Friday, Ameren Missouri President Michael Moehn said the Environmental Protection Agency regulations on carbon dioxide emissions, known as the Clean Power Plan, played a role in the decision. He said the decision would only "temporarily delay" the start of construction. [http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/ameren-suspends-plans-for-huge-solar-farm-along-i/article\\_36207a6d-2909-50ac-9dd5-c7e64a33e82b.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/ameren-suspends-plans-for-huge-solar-farm-along-i/article_36207a6d-2909-50ac-9dd5-c7e64a33e82b.html)



**Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World - KCC to open hearings on Clean Power Plan - 12/4/15 -** The Kansas Corporation Commission has opened what it calls a "general investigation" docket, and it will soon hold public hearings to determine what the state must do to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan. <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2015/dec/04/kcc-open-hearings-clean-power-plan/>

**Midwest Energy News - Opposition mobilizing to challenge Omaha utility's fixed-charge proposal - 12/7/15 -** Omaha's public electric utility aims to join the nationwide trend towards higher fixed charges, but opponents are organizing to defeat the measure. <http://midwestenergynews.com/2015/12/07/opposition-mobilizing-to-challenge-omaha-utilitys-fixed-charge-proposal/>

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch (blog) - What the Paris climate change talks mean for St. Louis - 12/6/15 -** The state's reliance on coal influences the politics. The Paris talks have put a target on the back of Big Coal, which has long made St. Louis its corporate home. [http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/what-the-paris-climate-change-talks-mean-for-st-louis/article\\_837c93ad-264d-5dee-bb53-86772cc853fc.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/what-the-paris-climate-change-talks-mean-for-st-louis/article_837c93ad-264d-5dee-bb53-86772cc853fc.html)

**Buzzfeed (blog) - Mark Ruffalo Calls Into Incredibly Dull EPA Meeting To Rail Against Fracking - 12/5/15 -** An EPA advisory committee had a teleconference Thursday to discuss whether the agency erred in assuring people that fracking didn't threaten drinking water. Actor Mark Ruffalo was paying attention. <http://www.buzzfeed.com/danvergano/mark-ruffalo-calls-into-dull-epa-meeting>

**Dubuque (Iowa) Telegraph-Herald - Businessman: Rough time for biofuels - 12/4/15 -** While the Obama administration and federal regulators see "ambitious" growth in renewable fuel production, Farley biodiesel businessman Tom Brooks sees another year of lost profits and plant shutdowns. [http://www.thonline.com/news/tri-state/article\\_e473563b-f2cf-5e00-84a4-625959554525.html](http://www.thonline.com/news/tri-state/article_e473563b-f2cf-5e00-84a4-625959554525.html)

**Quad-City Times (editorial) - Time for ethanol to stand on its own? - 12/6/15 -** perhaps it is time for ethanol to stand on its own. But, if this nation is serious about renewable energy, it can't prop up one energy source and send renewables out to fight for survival in the "free market." [http://qctimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/time-for-ethanol-to-stand-on-its-own/article\\_ecfa6ddc-72ac-5aa7-b1e4-18ac8985d6bd.html](http://qctimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/time-for-ethanol-to-stand-on-its-own/article_ecfa6ddc-72ac-5aa7-b1e4-18ac8985d6bd.html)

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Arnold joins energy efficiency program - 12/4/15 -** Property owners may be eligible for funding to make energy-efficient improvements now that Arnold has joined the Missouri Clean Energy District. [http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/arnold-joins-energy-efficiency-program/article\\_c581662a-f952-5eba-b8e9-2c60f9264039.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/arnold-joins-energy-efficiency-program/article_c581662a-f952-5eba-b8e9-2c60f9264039.html)

**Garden City (Kan.) Telegram - KDHE issues permit for hog farm, Sierra Club asks for reconsideration** - 12/4/15 - The Kansas chapter of the Sierra Club is asking the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to reconsider a permit it granted to Seaboard Farms that would help pave the way for a second hog feeding complex in Greeley County. [http://www.gctelegram.com/news/local/kdhe-issues-permit-for-hog-farm-sierra-club-asks-for/article\\_1f4a8998-b465-5697-a432-3e053ae2f638.html](http://www.gctelegram.com/news/local/kdhe-issues-permit-for-hog-farm-sierra-club-asks-for/article_1f4a8998-b465-5697-a432-3e053ae2f638.html)

**Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette - Bakken hearing nears completion; decision could be weeks away** - 12/5/15 - A forthcoming decision by Iowa regulators is just one of the approvals needed across four states for a proposed 30-inch diameter crude oil pipeline, but may prove the biggest hurdle. <http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/government/bakken-hearing-nears-completion-decision-could-be-weeks-away-20151205>

**DeSmogBlog - Heat on EPA as National Study on Fracking's Risks to Drinking Water is Challenged** - 12/6/15 - EPA's draft national assessment on fracking's potential to pollute drinking water is still under review. If it is to reflect science over policy, some dramatic changes to the wording of the study's conclusions are needed, EPA's review panel was told during a public comment teleconference on Thursday. <http://www.desmogblog.com/2015/12/06/heat-epa-environmentalists-homeowners-challenge-fracking-study>

**High Plains Journal (Hays, Kan.) (opinion) - WOTUS Mo-o-ve Out of the Way** - 12/6/15 - Federal lawmakers continue to attempt to make this rule go away—or at least restart the rulemaking process so EPA is forced to work with stakeholders. Litigation is also ongoing. Only time will tell, as Congress is in a scramble to pass a slew of bills before they head home for the Christmas holiday. [http://www.hpj.com/opinion/wotus-moo-ve-out-of-the-way/article\\_11699f9d-06af-5007-a9f8-78d0396f49d4.html](http://www.hpj.com/opinion/wotus-moo-ve-out-of-the-way/article_11699f9d-06af-5007-a9f8-78d0396f49d4.html)

**Discovery - Burning Natural Gas Can Be as Bad as Coal** - 12/6/15 - Coal recently was eclipsed by natural gas as the nation's top source of energy for electrical power generation. That might seem like a good development, because gas has a reputation as a cleaner fuel that contributes about half as much carbon dioxide to the atmosphere when it's burned as coal does. <http://news.discovery.com/earth/global-warming/burning-natural-gas-can-be-as-bad-as-coal-151206.htm>

**High Plains Journal - Ken Root: Good call on ethanol** - 12/7/15 - The ethanol industry has matured. No longer a struggling child that requires government protection, it is now an active adolescent, pushing the envelope and annoying its elders but still counting on shelter and protection in case the trouble it causes gets bigger than can be handled. At some point, the government has to get out but when that day comes depends on many factors from terrorism to technology. Get a good seat, it should be quite a show. [http://www.hpj.com/opinion/good-call-on-ethanol/article\\_6e457d9a-b930-5c06-8313-5162e4a0731f.html](http://www.hpj.com/opinion/good-call-on-ethanol/article_6e457d9a-b930-5c06-8313-5162e4a0731f.html)

**Daily Signal - The EPA's Water Power Grab: Lawmakers Can Use the Appropriations Process to Stop It** - 12/4/15 - As Congress figures out what policy riders, provisions in appropriations bills that

prohibit or direct the use of funds for certain purposes, will be included in any omnibus appropriations bill, there are several that should make the list, including one to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from using funds to implement their water rule in fiscal year 2016.  
<http://dailysignal.com/2015/12/04/the-epas-water-power-grab-lawmakers-can-use-the-appropriations-process-to-stop-it/>

**High Plains Journal (opinion) - Stop being offended** - 12/7/15 - Today, the hot button issue was "climate change." Some people think climate change is ridiculous. Others think those people are ridiculous for not believing in climate change. There are others offended agriculture groups are including the word "sustainability" as a part of their plans. Others are mad there's a story about a Democrat in the paper. Seriously, people. Get over yourselves. Get over being offended. [http://www.hpj.com/martin/stop-being-offended/article\\_83d359a2-741a-5dff-a71c-8b0057f118eb.html](http://www.hpj.com/martin/stop-being-offended/article_83d359a2-741a-5dff-a71c-8b0057f118eb.html)

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Abengoa reportedly closing U.S. headquarters in Chesterfield where 263 work** - 12/7/15 - The financial woes of Spanish renewable energy and biofuel company Abengoa SA are rippling into the St. Louis area, where the company's U.S. bioenergy operations are based. Abengoa Bioenergy, the U.S. biofuels unit of the Spanish company, plans to shut down its Chesterfield office that houses its U.S. headquarters. [http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/abengoa-reportedly-closing-u-s-headquarters-in-chesterfield-workers/article\\_0e089e15-97ad-5cbd-8860-5d72c8e1ae01.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/abengoa-reportedly-closing-u-s-headquarters-in-chesterfield-workers/article_0e089e15-97ad-5cbd-8860-5d72c8e1ae01.html)

**The Hill - Groups move to influence proposed methane rule** - 12/4/15 - The oil and natural gas industry's top lobbying group and a collection of healthcare professionals are among those looking to influence a forthcoming Obama rule on methane emissions. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/262174-groups-move-to-influence-proposed-methane-rule>

**The Hill - Obama officials look to seal climate deal** - 12/4/15 - Several Obama administration officials are heading to Paris to help secure a final international climate deal. EPA chief Gina McCarthy and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz led the officials heading to the United Nations climate talks. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/262176-week-ahead-obama-officials-look-to-seal-climate-deal>

**Missourinet - Gubernatorial candidates in Missouri Farm Bureau forum** - 12/6/15 - All the candidates told Missourinet a key issue for agriculture is regulation by EPA, and attempts by non-government groups to change how farmers operate. <http://www.missourinet.com/2015/12/06/live-stream-at-3-gubernatorial-candidates-in-missouri-farm-bureau-forum/>

**Corn + Soybean Digest - Use data to improve fertilizer efficiency** - 12/4/15 - An Iowa farmer aims to use data and predictive models to improve fertilizer efficiency and profitability. Ben Riensche shifted attention from volume to efficiency as the era of \$7 corn has closed. <http://cornandsoybeandigest.com/fertilizer/use-data-improve-fertilizer-efficiency>

**Greenwire - Embattled mercury rule likely to withstand court assault - 12/4/15 - U.S. EPA's** landmark air standards for mercury appear likely to survive an effort by industry and states to kill the rules in court. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060029011>

**Washington Examiner - Judges suggest court not ready to kill EPA pollution rule - 12/4/15 - A** federal appeals court doesn't appear ready to bring down the hammer on the Environmental Protection Agency's costly mercury and air pollutant rules. <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/judges-suggest-court-not-ready-to-kill-epa-pollution-rule/article/2577664>

## **Paris Climate Talks**

**National Public Radio - The Local Goes Global, As Mayors Talk Climate Change In Paris - 12/5/15 -** With nations struggling to agree on how to reduce greenhouse emissions, many cities have stepped in to fill the gap. Some 1,000 mayors from around the world pledged new measures in Paris this week. <http://www.npr.org/2015/12/05/458612039/the-local-goes-global-as-mayors-talk-climate-change-in-paris>

**CNN - Global climate change draft agreement reached - 12/5/15 -** Negotiators from 195 countries agreed Saturday on a blueprint deal aimed at reducing global carbon emissions and limiting global warming, a significant but far from conclusive step in the multinational effort to keep climate change in check. <http://www.wisn.com/national/global-climate-change-draft-agreement-reached/36811380>

**Los Angeles Times - Climate negotiators have a plan, but it leaves major issues unresolved - 12/5/15 -** Negotiators from nearly 200 countries on Saturday adopted a draft text that left many issues unresolved before high-level talks in the coming week aimed at reaching a global agreement to fight climate change. <http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-climate-change-draft-text-leaves-major-issues-unresolved-20151205-story.html>

**The Guardian (U.K.) - Paris climate change talks yield first draft amid air of optimism - 12/5/15 -** Negotiators paving the way for a global climate change agreement in Paris have cleared a major hurdle, producing a draft accord in record time and raising hopes that a full week of minister-led talks can now clinch a deal despite many sticking points. Country representatives and green groups say French summit is more cordial and efficient than Copenhagen five years ago. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/dec/05/paris-climate-change-talks-draft-french-summit>

**Wall Street Journal - Draft of Climate-Change Accord Shows Major Policy Disputes Remain - 12/5/15 -** Ministers arrive this weekend in Paris looking for compromises, as early draft of accord shows

little progress in main disputes. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/senior-officials-seek-to-unblock-paris-climate-change-talks-1449339890>

**Forbes (column) - Fighting Climate Change Nonsense** - 12/6/15 - Although some climate researchers have become advocates as much as scientists, the vast majority are engaged in serious research and should not be subject to attacks by outsiders. Rather, their work should be openly discussed, analyzed, criticized and praised (but not photocopied without permission!) <http://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelylynch/2015/12/06/fighting-climate-change-nonsense/>

**Scientific American (blog) - Pivoting from Paris to Madagascar on Climate Change** - 12/5/15 - Deforestation contributes more carbon to the atmosphere than the world's cars and trucks combined—and the biodiversity-rich forests of the planet's fourth-largest island are under attack. <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/pivoting-from-paris-to-madagascar-on-climate-change/>

**Fortune (blog) - The UN Climate Change Goals Are a Cop Out—Here's What We Should Do Instead** - 12/5/15 - Is climate change an inevitability or an opportunity? The 21st United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris, in progress now, aims to limit global warming to 2°C between now and 2100. But is that goal ambitious enough? <http://fortune.com/2015/12/05/climate-change-entrepreneurs/>

**TIME - How Climate Change Became the Central Development Issue** - 12/7/15 - Now, leaders of groups focused on solving a whole slew of development issues say that climate change has become central with its effects permeating to other key problems. <http://time.com/4137733/climate-change-development/>

**TIME - Robert Redford: We Have to Act on Climate Change Without Washington** - 12/7/15 - After decades of fighting for the cause, Redford feels new energy, sensing that environmental activism might finally have found its moment. <http://time.com/4137823/robert-redford-paris-interview/>

**New York Times - Trust and Money at Core of Crucial Paris Talks on Climate Change** - 12/7/15 - The international climate change negotiations entering their second and final week encompass a vast and complicated array of political, economic and legal questions. But at bottom, the talks boil down to two issues: trust and money. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/07/world/europe/trust-and-money-at-core-of-crucial-paris-talks-on-climate-change.html>

**Food Tank - Let's Pay Farmers to be Environmental Caretakers** - 12/7/15 - As climate leaders gather in Paris for the 21st Session of the Conference of Parties (COP21), farmers are responsible for much of the world's land use and associated climate emissions, and are key partners in reducing the environmental impact of human activities. <http://foodtank.com/news/2015/12/lets-pay-farmers-to-be-environmental-caretakers>

**The Hill - EPA cites Paris talks in defending climate rule** - 12/4/15 - Blocking the Obama administration's climate change rule for power plants would hurt the ongoing climate talks in Paris, federal attorneys argued to an appeals court. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/262091-epa-cites-paris-talks-in-defending-climate-rule>

**Associated Press - Climate talks shift from binding targets to 'name and shame'** - 12/7/15 - It's clear at this point that even if the international climate accord being negotiated in suburban Paris becomes legally binding, it won't include punitive measures like trade sanctions or embargoes on straggler countries that fail to meet their commitments. The only penalty for falling short on efforts to fight global warming would be failing in front of the whole world to achieve their goals. [http://qctimes.com/news/world/europe/climate-talks-shift-from-binding-targets-to-name-and-shame/article\\_e82a4ea3-fff8-5394-a110-f095f051507f.html](http://qctimes.com/news/world/europe/climate-talks-shift-from-binding-targets-to-name-and-shame/article_e82a4ea3-fff8-5394-a110-f095f051507f.html)

**Think Progress - Our Future May Hold Less Food, Thanks To Climate Change** - 12/4/15 - Food security, a fundamental human need that's been improving globally, is at risk as climate change triggers more extreme weather, a new study published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/12/04/3728124/climate-change-puts-food-security-at-risk/>

**The New Yorker - Congress Moves to Sabotage the Paris Climate Summit** - 12/4/15 - Can't trust the United States: as the international climate summit in Paris grinds along, this is the message Republicans in Congress are trying to send the delegates. The logic, such as it is, of the claim is that merely by making it the House G.O.P. goes a long way toward proving its validity. <http://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/congress-moves-to-sabotage-the-paris-climate-summit>

**ClimateWire - Dem senators tell Paris negotiators that U.S. stance is firm** - 12/7/15 - Ten of the biggest Senate proponents of climate action came to Paris this weekend to tell the world not to listen to Republicans in the United States. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060029055>

**Boston Examiner - EPA chief says congress won't win global warming fight and should 'get over it'** - 12/7/15 - Gina McCarthy, EPA's chief administrator, has some tough talk today for Republicans and others fighting Obama's continuing efforts to shutter fossil-fuel powered plants, specifically those that emit carbon dioxide: you're going to lose and you "might as well get over it." <http://www.examiner.com/article/epa-chief-says-congress-won-t-win-global-warming-fight-and-should-get-over-it>

**New York Times - Trust and Money at Core of Crucial Paris Talks on Climate Change** - 12/8/15 - The international climate change negotiations entering their second and final week encompass a vast and complicated array of political, economic and legal questions. But at bottom, the talks boil down to two

issues: trust and money. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/07/world/europe/trust-and-money-at-core-of-crucial-paris-talks-on-climate-change.html>

**The Hill - EnergyWire - Obama's A-Team touts Clean Power Plan's enforceability - 12/7/15 -** President Obama's top advisers have arrived in force here today to begin a final push toward a global climate accord, telling whoever will listen that U.S. carbon emissions reductions are here to stay. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060029064>

**The Hill - Obama energy chief lays out wish list for final Paris deal - 12/7/15 -** Carbon reduction verification methods and a process for updating and renewing climate goals top the American wish list for a final deal before the Paris climate conference ends this week, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said Monday. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/262295-obama-energy-chief-lays-out-wish-list-for-final-paris-deal>

**USA Today - Pope Francis prays for climate summit in Paris to succeed - 12/6/15 -** Pope Francis prayed Sunday for the success of the global climate summit in Paris, where another week of negotiations are underway to reach an agreement that would limit the warming of the planet. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/12/06/pope-francis-prays-climate-summit-paris-succeed/76882466/>

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